

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 1-13 and 15-24** are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The present invention comprises an apparatus that receives video streams with overlapping scenes, where a processor in the apparatus defines overlapping scene intervals that includes a time spacing between overlapping scene intervals, wherein time spacing is adjusted by the processor in the apparatus based on a characteristic of the video stream such that an action video has shorter and more closely overlapped scene intervals than a video of a slower cinematic genre. Furthermore, a processor in the apparatus computes a scene signature for the overlapping scene intervals, matches it with user's preference, determines and displays it to the viewer.

The closest prior arts, Hirzalla and Logan show a similar system. However, Hirzalla discloses a method that detects video sequences with digital signatures and matches with stored signature (user preference), and Logan discloses a system that identifies and designates programming segments based on the associated metadata. Thus, Hirzalla and Logan do not disclose nor suggest that *a scene defining processor that defines overlapping scene intervals including a time spacing between beginnings of overlapping scene intervals in the at least one video stream, wherein the time spacing between the beginnings of overlapping scene intervals is selected based on a characteristic of the at least one video stream*; a signature processor that computes a scene signature for each of the overlapping scene intervals, the video content storage

storing the scene signatures of the at least one video stream; a selector that selects a scene signature which is descriptive of video content of a scene a user wants to view; a comparator that compares the selected scene signature with scene signatures of the stored at least one video stream to identify one or more scenes whose scene signature is similar to the selected scene signature; and a player that plays the at least one scene whose scene signature is identified as similar to the selected scene signature, as required by all the independent claims 1 and 17.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent 7,194,752 to Kenyon discloses an apparatus for recognizing input audio/video streams.
- US Patent 7,064,796 to Roy discloses a system for identifying broadcast segments using profiles.
- US patent 6,774,917 to Foote discloses an apparatus for interactive similarity searching, retrieval, and browsing of video.
- US Patent 6,366,296 to Boreczky discloses a method for browsing media file using multimodal analysis.
- US Patent 6,473,459 to Sugano discloses a scene change detector.
- US PG Pub 2002/0080162 to Pan discloses a technique for detecting semantically significant events in a video sequence.

- US Patent 6,542,546 to Vetro discloses the system, where a content classifier determines content characteristics.
- US PG Pub 2002/0069218 to Sull discloses a system for indexing, searching, identifying portions of multimedia files.
- US Patent 5,621,454 to Ellis discloses a system for recognition of broadcast segments.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PINKAL CHOKSHI whose telephone number is (571) 270-3317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 - 5 pm (Alt. Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Pendleton can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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